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SECRET

COUNTRY USSR (Penza Oblast)

REPORT

SUBJECT Information on Bekovo

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Information

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#").																			

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PART IV - The village of BEKOVO in PENZENSKAYA Oblast

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Army rest home (Dom Otdykha) on the outskirts of the village of BEKOVO (Penzenskaya Oblast), approximately 200 km. north-west of SARATOV and 140 km. south-west of PENZA. The rest-home was situated just outside BEKOVO in a wooded area.

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2. The greater part of BEKOVO lies to the west and north of the river KHOPER, which flows along its south-eastern edge where there is also a narrow lake. The average width of the river near BEKOVO is 70 metres. Some parts appear very deep, others dry out in summer so that cattle can graze on the rushes and weeds.
3. Only one main street exists in BEKOVO. It has an unpaved, earth surface and traverses the village from west to east, ending in a bridge across the KHOPER, after which it deteriorates into a vague track. It is wide enough for 2 or 3 lanes of traffic but becomes very muddy and difficult for vehicles in the wet spring and autumn seasons. The bridge, wide enough for 2 lanes of traffic, is made of a mixture of manure, rubbish, brushwood and planks deposited on the river bed; the flowing water seeps its way through it. It has no side rails or supporting pillars.
4. The only railway touching BEKOVO is a single-tracked line of standard gauge from SOSNOVKA (about 15 km. west-south-west of BEKOVO), which is on the main SARATOV/TAMBOV line. BEKOVO is a terminus, and the station is close to the river at the eastern edge of the village. Trains are pulled by small locomotives known as "Ovechki". There is a grain elevator beside the station.
5. [redacted] a Post Office, a market and a few shops in BEKOVO. [redacted] it is a Rayon centre. [redacted] no military camps or installations in the area. Between SOSNOVKA and BEKOVO and nearer to SOSNOVKA there was a sugar-beet factory. In this area agriculture appeared to be well-developed.
6. BEKOVO lies in an open area between thick forests of mixed coniferous and deciduous trees (mostly walnuts) to the south-east of the village and steep

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hills of about 80 metres height and ravines just to the north-west. In this hilly area the terrain is difficult to cross, and there are frequent steep gullies and ravines between the hills. Peat is cut in the vicinity of BEKOVO and used for fuel.

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